

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region II**

Date: November 2, 2006

Subject: National Priorities List Removal Site Evaluation for Matteo & Sons, Inc. Site (a.k.a. Matteo Iron and Metal Site), West Deptford, Gloucester County, New Jersey

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To: File

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is required to complete a Removal Site Evaluation (RSE) under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) at all newly proposed and listed National Priority List (NPL) sites. The Matteo and Sons, Inc. Site (Site) was proposed for placement onto the NPL in April 2006. Since an RSE and an Action Memorandum have been previously prepared for this Site, this document serves as a summation of recent activities at the Site.

The Site is located at 1692 U.S. Highway 130 (a.k.a. Crown Point Road) in West Deptford, New Jersey and is situated just west of Interstate Highway 295/Route 130. The eastern portion of the Site, approximately 5 acres, is partially paved with asphalt and contains several buildings which support an active scrap metal recycling business. The remainder of the Site, approximately 75 acres, is comprised predominantly of heavily vegetated, undeveloped land which is bordered by Woodbury Creek to the west, Hessian Run to the north, and a residential trailer park (Willow Woods) to the south. The Site is located approximately 1.2 miles from the Delaware River at the confluence of Woodbury Creek and Hessian Run.

The Site was reportedly operated as a junkyard, recycling facility, and an unregistered landfill since approximately 1961. The unregistered landfill accepted crushed automotive battery casings, and industrial and domestic waste. An inspection in 1974 revealed that an incinerator was being used to smelt battery parts. There were several reports of battery casing incineration and subsequent on-site ash and waste products disposal. In addition to these operations, numerous inspections and complaints through the years revealed drums of waste scattered throughout the property, including in the wooded area near Willow Woods. Currently, Matteo Iron and Metal operates a scrap metal recycling facility on a portion of the Site closest to Crown Point Road.

In May 2004, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) completed a Remedial Investigation (RI) and a Remedial Action Selection Evaluation for the Matteo Iron and Metal Site (Site). In February 2005, the EPA Removal Action Branch received a verbal request from the NJDEP concerning the contamination at the Site. The NJDEP submitted a written request to EPA on June 6, 2005 to consider the Site for a CERCLA removal action.

An Action Memorandum was signed by the Director of the Emergency and Remedial Response Division on September 30, 2005 authorizing funding for construction of a chain-link fence around the Site to restrict access. The owner of the Site subsequently indicated that they would conduct the removal and entered into negotiations with EPA. An RSE was completed on February 16, 2006.

In February 2006, EPA collected soil samples in and around Willow Woods and the single-family residence located adjacent to the eastern end of the Site. The analytical results revealed the presence of elevated levels of lead in surface soils at both locations. The area near Willow Woods appeared to mostly be an isolated area near the property line with the Site where crushed battery casings were placed at the surface.

At the request of EPA, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS), in cooperation with the Agency of Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), conducted a health assessment of the situation. It was concluded that the levels of lead identified in the soil in an area adjacent to Willow Woods, just north of Sections D, E, and F, posed a public health hazard. It was advised that children not come into contact with the contaminated soil in this area. A meeting was held on March 13, 2006 with the residents of Willow Woods whose homes were directly adjacent to the contaminated area to discuss the implications of the situation. In addition to the Willow Woods residents, in attendance were representatives of EPA, NJDHSS, ATSDR, NJDEP, and the owner of Willow Woods. EPA Fact Sheets and ATSDR Lead Fact Sheets were distributed to the entire community. A public availability session was subsequently held on March 16, 2006. Local officials were notified. The Administrative Record was established at the West Deptford Public Library and its availability advertised in a local newspaper.

EPA initiated a CERCLA Removal Action on March 13, 2006 in the area adjacent to Willow Woods. Three hundred and eighty (380) linear feet of temporary high-visibility fence and warning signs were installed between the residential trailers and the Site. Construction of the temporary high-visibility fence was completed on March 15, 2006.

An Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) was signed by the Regional Administrator on May 4, 2006 to include the installation of a chain-link fence and the establishment of engineering controls to restrict customer access to contaminated portions of the operating facility. Since a portion of the chain-link fence that was to be installed around the Site passed through this contaminated area near Willow Woods, a soil cleanup was conducted prior to the fence construction. The owner of the Site informed EPA of their interest and intention to conduct the cleanup under EPA oversight without entering into an AOC. This removal action, which was initiated on June 26, 2006, resulted in the excavation of approximately 425 tons of contaminated soil. All of the field work has been completed for both the AOC and the removal action without an AOC.

Except for the soil excavation near Willow Woods, the other actions that have taken place at the Site are interim measures, designed to protect human health by attempting to minimize direct contact with the highly contaminated areas at the Site. They will not reduce the contamination

levels and therefore will not alleviate the remaining human health and ecological concerns. Additional comprehensive response actions are needed to address the threats posed by the Site. The actions that have taken place have not addressed: the tens of thousands of tons of battery carcasses and the heavily contaminated soils either in direct contact with a tidal estuary of the Delaware River or within the estuary's floodplain; the heavily contaminated sediments in Hessian Run; the contaminated ground water underlying and downgradient of the Site; and the availability of access to the Site along Hessian Run, Woodbury Creek, and from the active portion of the Site.